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## A visit from the North Pole

Santa waves to the crowd on Nov. 18 during the annual Santa Claus Parade in Minden. The event saw hundreds come out on the sunny day to spread holiday cheer. For more photos, see page 4. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

# Respiratory illness season sees pre-pandemic levels

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Contrary to the much higher than usual number of hospital visits last fall, this respiratory illness season has been more typical thus far.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit's medical officer of health, said COVID-19 infection remains in the mix of influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

"Last year by this point in time ... we were seeing very, very high levels of respiratory illness already with respiratory season almost peaking at the end of November, early December," she told the unit's board of health when it met Nov. 16.

So far this year, Emergency Departments have seen conditions similar to the pre-pandemic levels, she said.

see COVID-19 page 3

# Group lobbies for Hawk Lake waste transfer site

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Representatives of Big Hawk, Halls, and Little Hawk lakes recently trash-talked Algonquin Highlands township council.

Actually, members of the Hawk Lake Waste Disposal Site working group went to the Nov. 16 council meeting to talk trash. That is, Shelly Fellows and Peter Dadzis lobbied council to re-open the former transfer station.

To enforce their point, Fellows said 159 property owners responded to an anonymous online survey from Oct. 19 to Nov. 4. She said that represents about 27 per cent of the Halls Lake and Hawk Lake households.

Ninety per cent of the respondents were in favour of re-opening the transfer station.

Residents of the Hawk Lake area have long had concerns about waste management on the heels of the closure of their nearby landfill site. Council heard some of those concerns at a special meeting in December 2022.

Council then requested that staff bring back options for provision of waste management services to residents of the Hawk Lake area.

Cambium Inc. was brought on board at that time to complete a review of service delivery options and provide a report to council. The consultation portion of the project was approved in May.

Suggested options were heard by council during a meeting in September, but it was deemed too early for a decision to be made.

The first suggested delivery option was to construction a waste material transfer station at the Hawk Lake Waste Disposal Site property.

The second possibility was something called a stationary vehicle option. The vehicle would be parked at a location at regular set times where residents could bring their waste materials.

Another avenue suggested was a business-managed arrangement. A local business would host containers for the collection of waste materials.

That's similar for a fourth option, which was community-based sites that could be managed by cottage associations and the like. Residents would bring their waste there.

Fellows, who is president of the Halls and Hawk Lake Property Owners Association, said the group has no interest in managing waste collection sites.

"We also don't feel that unsupervised Dumpsters are a viable option, nor is curbside collection or a business-managed collection point," she said.

Based on community feedback and data in the Cambium report, the working group has concluded that a transfer station on or near the former Hawk Lake Waste Disposal Site would be the most effective option to meet the need.

According to survey responses and based on the estimate of 600 households in the area, there's as many as 570 property owners in favour of a transfer station.

Dadzis said services that are the responsibility of the municipality were taken away from area residents when the Hawk Lake WDS was closed.

"We've had experience now for a few years in travelling to primarily Maple Lake dump to dispose of our waste," Fellows said. "So why would we want to go back to the Hawk Lake site?

"Longer drive times, higher cost due to the greater distance, fuel is exceedingly expensive right now, increased carbon footprint due to having to drive to Maple Lake."

There are also people who have concerns for safety along North Shore Road and St. Peter's Road because of the increased traffic to the Maple Lake site.

Anecdotally from people who regularly walk local roads, more bags of trash have been seen dumped along the sides of roads.

Dadzis said the landfill's closure is still top of mind for many taxpayers.

Candidates in the race for Ward 2 during the last municipal election indicated that possibly reopening Hawk Lake WDS as a transfer station was an issue worth considering, he said.

Dadzis: "As councillors, you are there to work on behalf of us as ratepayers with a fiduciary responsibility to—"

Mayor Liz Danielsen: "Peter, if you don't mind, if you wouldn't mind carrying on with your presentation as opposed to telling us what our responsibilities are. I think we're very well aware of that."

In the interest of fairness, Fellows said not everybody is in favour of re-opening the landfill. She said 12 per cent of survey respondents indicated they were satisfied with the current level of services.

Then again, 88 per cent indicated dissatisfaction with the level of services.

"So this is an opportunity, we feel, with re-opening a facility, a garbage transfer station specifically, to demonstrate that council and administration are aligned with residents, do understand and hear their concerns, and are willing to take action upon that," Fellows said.

The working group would like to see a committee formed of property owners and municipal staff to work toward the re-opening of the site as a transfer station over the next three years.

Ultimately, the committee would award the tender for the transfer station construction in 2026.

Danielsen said she appreciate the work the group has done and the level of detail they've brought to council about the issue.

"I have to say I am a little bit disappointed that your working group has decided not to look at any of the other options that we had brought before us," she said.

She said there's also disappointment in the attitude brought to council by the delegation.

"I really believe that council, as Peter's pointed out, truly has listened to you," Danielsen said. "We made a decision, and we did not make that decision lightly, when we decided to close the landfill and invest more money into the Maple Lake landfill. That was not an easy decision to make."

She said it isn't easy for a council to reverse a decision that's been made. Further, she said, competing priorities have to be considered when such decisions are made.

"It's obvious that council has listened to you because we've agreed to go back and reconsider the options and look at what we may or may not be able to or be willing to do considering what's in the best interests of the entire municipality as well as your catchment area," Danielsen said.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said she was disappointed the other options included in the Cambium report were not included on the working group's survey of residents.

Fellows said none of the residents are sanitary engineers.

"So we don't understand the nuances of the various waste disposal options that were in there," she said. "We could only look at them through the lens of users of the system."

Dailloux said she'll balance the number of survey responses in favour of a transfer station with the fact that none of the other options were in the survey. As they are, the results only indicate that a high number of people want a solution to the issue.

"With respect to your numbers, I will be still considering the other options in the Cambium report simply because the survey did not speak to those other options," Dailloux said.

# Winter weather could mean no-bus days, school closures

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Even a whisper of poor weather can skuttle a school day.

School boards must make early decisions on whether the winter weather is hazardous enough to warrant pulling buses off the roads. Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has a procedure and communication channels for parents on days of inclement weather.

Transportation may be cancelled during inclement weather or due to the forecast of poor or deteriorating road conditions.

Regions that fall under the umbrella of the TLDSB include City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County, and the District Municipality of Muskoka.

Each of those geographical regions is assessed independently.

The decision whether transportation will be cancelled is made in consultation with transportation operators as per existing road conditions, weather conditions as reported by Environment Canada, and other pertinent information.

If transportation is canceled due to poor weather, schools within the affected region of the TLDSB will remain open. Parents and guardians are responsible for transportation of their students who attend school on inclement weather days.

Drop-off and pick-up must occur in alignment with the regular school day start and end times.

In rare circumstances where extreme weather or other facility situations require a school or multiple schools to be closed, the TLDSB community will be notified as soon as possible via the usual communication channels mentioned below.

Those channels include social media by way of X/Twitter (@TLDSB), Facebook (@TLDSB), and Instagram (@trillium_lakelands_dsb); the TLDSB website (tldsb.ca);

www.mybustoschool.ca; and local news/radio stations.

Parents and guardians with any further questions can contact the child's school directly.

A new inclement weather policy has been put in effect by TLDSB, prompting schools to close if bad weather is on the radar. /file photo

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# Ontario curriculum not set to change

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

On Oct. 21, the Million March 4 Children marched around Head Lake Park, in their fight against the "sexual content taught at schools".

According to their website, this group stands for one thing: "advocating for the elimination of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculum, pronouns, gender ideology and mixed bathrooms in schools." One representative of the group shared with the *Times* that they are "concerned about the adult sexual content that is being taught in elementary schools; the concern is sexualization of children."

The curriculum is currently designed to offer support and insight as a part of their health and physical education classes. "Because the base of knowledge, experience, and skills varies from student to student, it is important for instruction to be differentiated to meet a wide range of student needs," reads the Ontario curriculum. "The emphasis in the junior grades should be on building students' understanding of themselves in relation to others."

Some of these topics include mental and physical health, bullying, technology-associated risks, hazards around drugs and alcohol, eating decisions, cognitive problem solving, and gender identities, to name a few. The Ontario curriculum in its entirety is readily available online for any individual to access.

While the majority of these topics do not seem to faze the protestors behind the Million March 4 Children, it's the gender identification that appears to ruffle feathers.

In a formal statement, Allan Guinan, the chair of Minden Pride, shared "our position holds that there is considerable confusion, discrimination and misinformation circulating within this fringe group's assertion that the Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum offered in Ontario 'sexualizes children'."

The *Times* reached out to Carolynne Bull, the manager of communications services from Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB), who was very aware of both the protests from the organization Million March 4 Children, as well as the counter protest by Minden Pride. "Our curriculum is not changing," said Bull, noting that it was developed with children's best interests, and catering to their needs and mental health that are identified by the Ministry of Education.

That being said, she did note that all TLDSB programs include an "opt out" option. When the physical health programs are being taught, all students are sent home with a form that parents and guardians must review and sign before any teachings would proceed.

This would negate the argument that many protesters were sharing at both the Sept. 20 and Oct. 21 Million March 4 Children protests, claiming that children are taught the SOGI curriculum without parental knowledge or consent. "The parents are in control," said Bull.

For the full Ontario curriculum, set by the Ministry of Education, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en.

# COVID-19 not going away

**from page 1**

"It hasn't peaked yet," she said. "And likely won't peak until December and even potentially early January."

While there's been some measure of increased COVID-19 infections, Bocking said there hasn't been a significant jump in the number of influenza patients. There's been an increase in respiratory syncytial virus infections in children.

"Which is to be expected for this time of year and our landscape and geography," she said.

Congregate settings such as long-term care homes have had 22 COVID-19 outbreaks so far this fall. There's been 25 hospital admissions and four fatalities. There's only been six lab-confirmed flu cases and no hospital admissions for that illness.

That number of flu cases is likely to change, she said.

"We're still really seeing, I think, just the beginning of the influenza season as the numbers continue to increase," Bocking said.

Communities are at the stage where many people don't like to talk about COVID-19, and people would like to believe the coronavirus is behind us as the worldwide lockdown recedes deeper into the past.

But the reality is that it isn't going away.

"It's now a regular part of our respiratory viruses that will impact us and is continuing to have a significant impact on individuals, especially those people who are of advanced age," she said.

"Twenty of the 25 hospital admissions that we've seen so far are among individuals over the age of 70."

# Bus route to be terminated

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
*Times Staff*

There will no longer be a public transportation option for those wishing to travel between Toronto and Haliburton County as of Jan. 31, 2024.

TOK Coachlines has announced the cancellation of the Haliburton to Toronto route after nearly 35 years of service due to decreased ridership and increased operation costs.

"The Haliburton route has been underperforming for the last four to five years. We were losing money, but it's an essential service for people up there, so we kept it going," Ajay Mehra, chief executive officer of TOK Group.

Mehra said when COVID hit in 2020, they completely shut down the route before opening it back up three days a week.

"We started running the line three days a week in anticipation that the ridership would go back up, but we are still carrying a lot less people than we used to, and the cost of operation has gone up so much too," Mehra said. "Fuel prices, maintenance prices, everything increased significantly after the pandemic."

"Because the ridership is so low and we are losing money every day we run it, we have decided to shut it off."

The decision wasn't an easy one for the company to make, as the route is the only public transportation currently available from Haliburton County to the city.

"We understand this is hard on people. Unfortunately we are losing thousands a month on this route alone, and just can't keep it going," Mehra said.

He explained the bus would need to carry over 20 passengers each time to keep up with costs.

"Many days we only have up to seven people riding on that route. We need to of course at least break even, and we haven't been doing that for quite some time," Mehra said.

> "We understand this is hard on people. Unfortunately we are losing thousands a month on this route alone, and just can't keep it going"
>
> **— AJAY MEHRA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF TOK GROUP**

The line currently runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week and stops in Haliburton, Minden, Lindsay, and Toronto.

Mehra said the busiest times for the route were long weekends, "But that's only a couple of days of the year, and we can't only run it once in a while and depend on individuals. If there is a big group of people though, they can request a charter bus from us."

Those who have bought tickets in advance can use them between now and Jan. 31 or request a full refund.

"We wanted to give all riders reasonable notice, so that's why we are running it until the end of January," Mehra said. "I wish I could keep running it, but we can't financially sustain it."


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**VIRTUAL & IN–PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

November 30 - Regular Council Meeting
December 14 - Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or a live-stream link available on the Township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

**CULTURAL CENTRE**

Don't miss the final few days of Shifting Lens, a group exhibit featuring 15 artists from the Eastern Hub of the Ontario Society of Artists, will be on display until November 25, 2023, in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Admission is by donation. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre, including the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, will be closed from November 27 to December 4 as we prepare the gallery and install an exhibit featuring artwork from our permanent collection. We will re-open to the public on Tuesday, December 4 from 10 am – 4 pm. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

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- Keep all flammable materials away from your furnace. This includes, clothing, paint products, toxic materials, cardboard and more.

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- Do not place space heaters near furniture or drapery.
- Turn space heaters off when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Avoid storing any combustible items near heaters.

**Here comes Santa Claus**

Minden Hills Fire Chief Shain Duda waves to the crowd. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Addie and Sawyer Hamilton wave to the many floats that drove by on Nov. 18 during the Santa Claus Parade in Minden.

David Rankin smiles on the Minden Pride float during the annual Minden Santa Claus Parade. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

The Turtle Guardians mascot grooves to the Christmas tunes during the parade.

Drew Staniforth of ReMax hands out candy canes during the Minden Santa Claus Parade.

**Father Christmas**

Jack Brezina waves to the crowd, dressed as Father Christmas during the Santa Claus Parade. The costume once belonged to the late Sinclair Russell, and makes an appearance each year to celebrate everything Russell did for Minden. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

# Nelson makes it official with HHHS

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

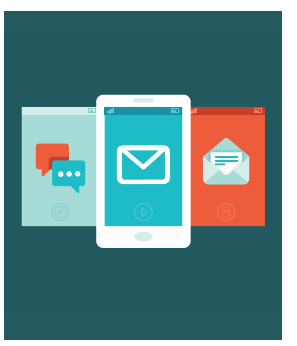
Veronica Nelson has accepted the role of president and CEO of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS); a title that will become official on Dec. 4, 2023.

Nelson assumed the role on an interim basis on June 12 of this year, following the announcement that Carolyn Plummer - former president and CEO - had stepped down, citing health concerns.

At the time of the transition, the role was that of a contentious one, with heated discussions and heightened emotions that came in light of the Minden Emergency Room closure on June 1. But Nelson jumped in with two feet; immediately offering town hall meetings across the county in an attempt to break down the walls between HHHS and the community.

Her efforts continue to be seen as she dedicates herself to changing the work environment and support system seen in HHHS, in an effort to build recruitment opportunities, and support the needs of Haliburton County.

Nelson originally hails from Ross Memorial Hospital, and departs after nearly 24 years of service there. "This moment in my career is bittersweet. I wish nothing but the absolute best to my RMH family and look forward to continued collaboration with them," Nelson said in a press release when her new role was announced.



*Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?*

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# InOtherWords

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

The Times

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## Back to basics

WE'RE NEARING the month countdown to Christmas. I am seeing e-mails come in about how time is flying, how we need to hop on the Black Friday deals, order online today to get those gifts gifts gifts.

Suddenly the character of the Grinch is starting to resonate more and more.

Last year seemed to be the time that we trepidatiously tested the waters in this post-pandemic world, and this year, we are diving in head first (although COVID is still around, and it would be a good time to get your vaccines, but that's a whole other editorial).

Markets every weekend, parades each week, concerts scattered throughout the days, fundraisers, auctions, visits with Santa. It's a constant inundation of things. Of tasks. Of events. Of responsibilities.

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

Working at the newspaper, we see it all. And truly, we love when folks include us in their plans; letting us know so we don't let things fall through the cracks. And we have nothing but love and support for the many individuals in our community who bring these events to life.

But as a parent, a partner, a person, it can all feel like a lot. And really, the purpose of the pomp is to try to harness that magic we felt as children. The sparkle of the first snowfall, the bleary eyes before the sun rises on Christmas morning, the way the house fills with sounds and laughter and love.

And those are the lucky ones. As we all know, there are so many in this community who have never had these experiences.

So how do we go back to basics? How do we lose the fluff and the frenzy and replace it with the simple and the sweet?

I think quite simply, we can start by giving. Instead of snagging that great Black Friday deal, we can make a donation to one of the many organizations that give back to our community. If we can't donate products, perhaps we can donate time.

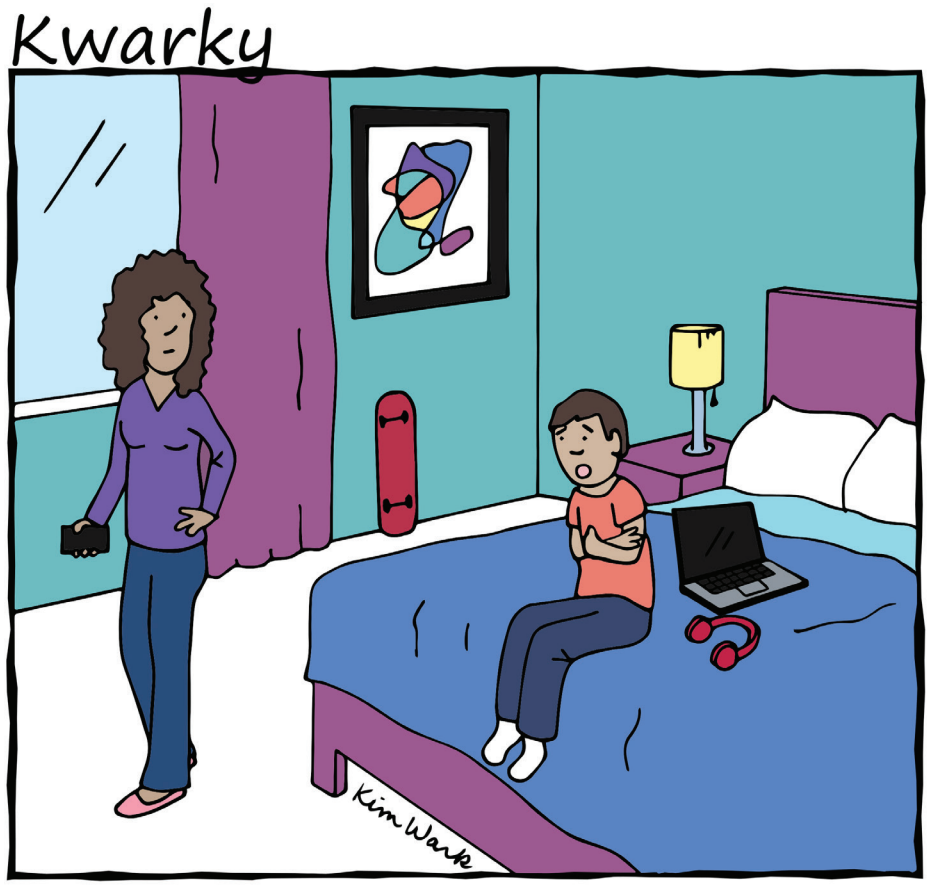
That magic lives in the feeling of giving back, wherever and whenever we can.

Next, I would suggest going easy on the decor. If decking the halls brings you joy, then I fully support that. But if it's just another item on the to-do list, then remember that less is more. A few sprigs of pine and some dried oranges can go a long way.

Lastly, find a way to be a part of the community in some way. Pick one Christmas show to attend, or one parade to view. Perhaps attend a single market, or tune into the Christmas Shindig online. There are ways to feel like you are part of the community, without feeling the overstimulation of attending every single event under the stars. One is enough, and rest is valuable this time of year. It's okay to take a break.

Coming out of the years of solitude and uncertainty can be a breath of fresh air, but it can also be overwhelming. And these feelings are exacerbated by the inundation to need more, want more, and do more that comes with the holidays. Focusing on your own mental health should always be the priority.

So this year, I hope you take a moment to find joy, to feel peace, and to experience a little bit of holiday magic, whatever that looks like to you.




"You can't ground me! I've got millions of followers who demand daily content!"

## Plumage

NOW THAT the rifle season for deer is over and hunters can get back to the serious business of late season waterfowling, I think it is noteworthy to say we are at the time of year when the birds we hunt are in their finest plumage.

I think it is also interesting to point out that the gaudiest changes in appearance almost always occur in the male of any wild species – and it is always just in time for the courting season. Society views males as less romantic, but in nature at least, we are the ones who make all the effort. Because, when it comes to the mating game, the males are, apparently, always the most desperate and clueless.

**STEVE GALEA**
*Beyond 35*

All you need to do is look at deer.

An old buck will one day say to his buddies, "Breeding season will soon be here."

This will cause an animated discussion in the bachelor group.

"So how do we impress the does?" Another will say.

"How about showing kindness and consideration?" A young buck will ask.

"Or just being a good deer?" Another will suggest.

"I think we should show interest in the doe we like and connect with her emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually," another immature buck will chime in.

"No, we grow antlers," an old buck announces. "The does love it when we grow a big, gnarly set of antlers. Who wouldn't?"

It is no different with ducks.

Take the mallard drake. One day he is very similar in appearance to the females in the flock – which is to say, elegant and understated – and then one says to his buddies, "I've been giving this a lot of thought. You know what I bet will impress the hens? A green head…"

It is the same for every duck species at this time. The male Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, Long-tailed ducks, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Wood ducks, Mallards, Black ducks, Blue and Green-winged teal, Widgeon, Gadwall, Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Ring-necked ducks, to name a few are all dressed up to impress their female counterparts – and like all males who don't ask for input from stylists or their sisters, it is always a bit much.

It just goes to show what a male will do in order to impress the female that they are attracted to.

And, God Bless the females of the species too. You see a hen wood duck could answer truthfully when the male asks, "Do you think this is over-the-top?"

But instead, she looks at his red-lined, red eyes, green iridescent head, white chin strap, rose, yellow, and white bill, chestnut breast with white accents and back with iridescent blue-green feathers and says, "Uh, no…. You look great..."

Even wild turkeys do this. You think the hen turkey really likes that red throat wattle or snood?

Luckily, we humans are a bit more advanced than these wild animals. I'll end it at that because I am going to take Jenn out to dinner tonight and I need to go through my camouflaged sweat shirts and launder the one that's she likes best.

I know she likes it because I had it on the other day before we went out to go grocery shopping. So, naturally, I asked her if it was a bit too over-the-top.

She just looked at me and said, "Uh, no…. You look great..."

## InOtherWords

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

# Red tape and small business

THERE'S MUCH talk lately about the need to reduce red tape. We live in a country in which people are swimming in it, just trying to keep afloat.

The latest red tape report from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) says that small businesses estimate that dealing with red tape costs $11 billion a year.

The report also says that regulation from our three levels of government – federal, provincial and municipal – cost $38.8 billion in 2020. The total amount of time spent on complying with government regulations by all Canadian businesses was 731 million hours, the equivalent of 375,000 full-time jobs.

**JIM POLING SR.**
*From Shaman's Rock*

CFIB says the smallest businesses are hurt by red tape more than larger ones. The smallest businesses pay roughly $7,000 a year per employee to comply with government regulations. Larger businesses, CFIB reports, pay $1,237 annually per employee. So, being able to spread regulatory costs over more staff give the larger business a competitive advantage over the smaller ones.

Red tape is defined as excessive bureaucracy that slows getting things done and creates unreasonable costs to people and business.

We've all seen or read about examples: for instance, some authorities requiring kids to have a business licence for lemonade stands. Or, the frustration and time lost trying to navigate government websites that are long, and complicated.

And, most of us have seen those Taylor Swift-like lineups at Service Canada locations where people try to do business with the federal government, often for passports. In 2022 people reported bringing lawn chairs and sleeping bags for day-long waits in Service Canada lineups.

The City of Toronto once decided that people wanting to obtain a new business licence could do so only on paper, in person and at one location.

Thankfully, reducing red tape is being recognized by governments and many jurisdictions are taking action to eliminate costly and time-demanding processes.

The federal government passed a Red Tape Reduction Action in 2015. The law requires that for every new regulation introduced, one existing regulation must be eliminated. That means every new regulation imposing an administration burden on business must be offset by a decrease in administrative burden.

The feds have reviewed the one-for-one rule and say it is working. However the review, published on a Government of Canada website, is roughly 3,000 words long, hopelessly bureaucratic and very difficult to understand.

A new study into why fewer Canadians are starting new businesses estimates there are 100,000 fewer business owners than there were 20 years ago. Only 1.3 individuals out of 1,000 started a business in 2022, compared with three out of 1,000 in 2020.

There are increasing calls to free small businesses from red tape and tax burdens. CFIB says that small businesses estimate that the burden of regulations could be reduced by 28 per cent without harming any public interests, which regulations are designed to protect.

A strong campaigner for removing the roadblocks that prevent creation of more small businesses is Frank Stronach, founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest companies.

Stronach says that as of 2021 Canadian small businesses employed more than eight million people, close to 70 per cent of our total private sector workforce.

"We've placed so many obstacles in the way of small businesses and burdened them with countless regulations and rules that it's no wonder so many small business don't survive more than a few years after opening their doors," he has written in a number of publications, including the *Minden Times*.

Governments are concerned about small business and have brought in numerous support programs to counter rules and regulations that are impairing small business growth. But Stronach says the way to help small business is to get out of the way: slash all the red tape and let small businesses take off and soar.

Sounds like a good idea. Most governments do seem concerned about lack of small business growth.

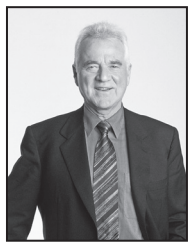
Concern is not enough. We need real action from all forms of government. Red tape is a sickness that is weakening our economy and the only way to cure it is to eliminate it.

**The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights**

# Too many hurdles are hobbling small businesses

I HAVE SPENT most of my business career owning and managing large corporations, including Magna International Inc., one of the world's largest auto parts suppliers.

Today, however, I'm once again a small business owner, with start-up businesses in the organic food and electric vehicle industries.



**FRANK STRONACH**
*Principles*

So even though I never forgot what it was like to own a small business when I first started out back in the mid-1950s, I'm discovering some of the hurdles that many small business owners go through today.

And from what I can see, it's much more difficult to make a go of it nowadays than it was decades ago.

A number of reports also confirm that the business climate in Canada is nowhere near as friendly or as easy as it used to be.

The World Bank Doing Business Index is a prime example. The index assesses various aspects of doing business, including dealing with permits, obtaining credit and paying taxes. When the index was first established in 2007, Canada was ranked 4th in the world in terms of the ease of doing business. In the latest ranking conducted by the World Bank, Canada has plunged to 23rd overall.

But even without these studies and reports, many small business owners will say the same thing: it's becoming increasingly difficult to run a business with all of the many hurdles that are placed in their way.

One of these hurdles is the permit process – everything from filling out long and confusing applications and forms to the long wait times small businesses have to tolerate before getting various permit approvals.

But even after that, small businesses then have to endure further waits for various inspections. And if that weren't enough, there's also zoning requirements, sign permits and a whole batch of other licenses and approvals – all of which also come with a fee attached.

All of these bureaucratic delays and fees hobble small businesses at the crucial point where they trying to get up and running and the demands on their time and money are greatest.

The key point is that many small business owners are hurting and nothing is being done to help them stay afloat. An economic charter would provide them with the lifeline they need to flourish and thrive.

In this column, I've proposed that Canada adopt a national Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities to reinvigorate our economy and give Canadians greater freedom and control when it comes to their economic future – including our small business owners and entrepreneurs.

One of the foremost principles in the economic charter is the removal of business income tax on any small business with fewer than 300 employees and the reduction of red tape and regulations that are strangling small businesses and hindering their ability to grow.

I'm willing to meet with any business group that would like to learn more about the economic charter and how it could help Canada's small businesses. Feel free to reach out and email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

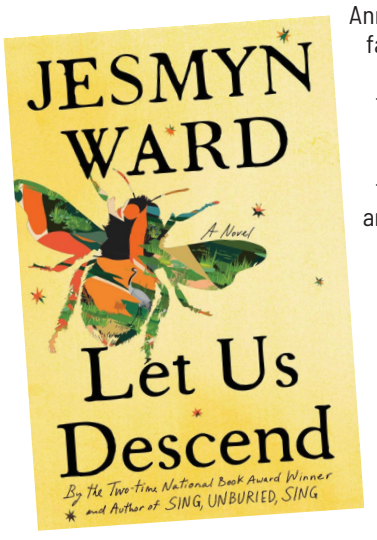
Excessive regulations and stifling rates of taxation are the one-two punch knocking out many of Canada's small businesses. It's time we did something about it.

*Author Bio*

*Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.*

*fstronachlpc@gmail.com*

## HCPL's Book of the Week




Annis has been sold south by the white enslaver who fathered her. As she struggles through the miles-long march, she turns inward, seeking comfort from memories of her mother and stories of her African warrior grandmother. Throughout, she opens herself to a world beyond this world, one teeming with spirits: of earth and water, of myth and history; spirits who nurture and give, and those who manipulate and take. Following the journey from the rice fields of the Carolinas to the slave markets of New Orleans and into the fearsome heart of a Louisiana sugar plantation, the novel is a reimagining of American slavery, as beautifully rendered as it is heart-wrenching.

*Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

# Heat Bank warms up for winter months

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

It's that time of year again. The days and nights are getting colder, and the household needs begin to change. This is when the Heat Bank becomes particularly important. "We've seen a 27 per cent increase in households needing our help," said Rachel Gillooly, the client services and volunteer coordinator for the Central Food Network. "That's 220 calls for assistance, and nearly 340 people."

With the median home energy annual cost nearing $4,000, options for heating are becoming increasingly more challenging.

Heat Bank Haliburton County is a program of Central Food Network, a local non-profit. The organization provides free and confidential support for local households who are struggling to keep their heat and lights on. It is confirmed that nearly 50 per cent of individuals in Haliburton County are living in energy poverty, with over ten per cent of their income going towards home energy.

Through offering grants, financial assistance, support, and materials for heating the home, the Heat Bank fills the gaps for some of these needs in the community. "Any household in the county facing a firewood emergency is eligible for one truckload of firewood," said Gillooly. "We don't need proof of income to release the first load. We can help with an additional two truckloads for households with low income."

This year's in-person portion of the annual Heat Bank Auction at Rhubarb Restaurant is now sold out, but the online version is live and active leading up to the event, with all proceeds going right back into the community. /Photo submitted

One of the means that the Heat Bank has the funds to support these families is through their annual Heat Bank auction, hosted through Rhubarb Restaurant. "Last year we raised over $33,000," said Gillooly, "and it would be great to raise more than that this year."

With nearly 100 items up for auction, the hybrid online/in-person auction features local artisans, foods, holiday gifts, gift certificates, and experiences. "The timing for this auction is great," said Gillooly, "between now and the end of December, there are a lot of holidays coming up, so a great time to purchase gifts."

The auction is split into two parts: the silent, online portion, which runs until the evening of Nov. 26, followed by the live auction portion on the same evening. At this time, the dinner and live auction portion are entirely sold out, but the online auction is still available for individuals to support, and at the time of publication, has raised over $10,000.

While the need for energy support is high in the area, Gillooly notes that none of this would be possible without the community partners along the way; sponsors, donors, and Rhubarb Restaurant. "We couldn't provide these services without the generous support from community members of Haliburton County," said Gillooly.

Visit app.galabid.com/heatbank23items for the full list of auction items.

## Happy Howl-idays

Kristyn Begbie, the owner and operator of Snowflake Meadows in Minden, hosted the third annual Christmas at the farm, with money going towards the rescue and rehabilitation of animals in the community. Over $1500 was raised, as well as a collection of non-perishables to go towards the local food banks. /TIM YANO special to the *Times*

Many people came out to support the rescue, including three year old Madisyn Fisher, who got to share her wish list with Santa at Snowflake Meadows on Nov. 18.

Snowflake Meadows takes in many different types of animals, with varying backgrounds, to try to find suitable homes for them to live their lives in. For information on adoptions, visit Snowflake Meadows on Facebook.

# Debt and sin

**FAY MARTIN**
*Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder*

AS WE TIP into the holly jolly Christmas season, with its pressure to buy gifts, make gifts, plan events, prepare food, embrace the challenge of winter road trips and chaotic airports, let's take a moment to think about debt. Some while ago someone sent me a review of a book (*And Forgive Them Their Debts: Credit and Redemption*) by economist Professor Michael Hudson based on the thought-provoking fact that in many languages, ancient and current, 'debt' and 'sin' are the same or closely related word.

Wow! That means that Canadians are among the most sinful on the planet! We have the highest household debt level in the G7; on average we owe $1.81 for every one dollar of disposable income. Increasingly, we manage that debt by leaving a balance on our credit cards – on average $4000 -- on which we pay an average of 23.75% interest, calculated daily. The worse your credit rating, the more you use your credit cards and the higher interest rate you pay.

From whatever angle you look at that, it looks like sin. Usury is what the bible called it, and in the Old Testament, Jews were not allowed to charge interest to other Jews, although they could to people from other countries. Prof Hudson makes the point that Jesus was crucified not for his religious beliefs, but because of his economic activism. (We do recall him destroying the lenders' tables in the synagogue.)

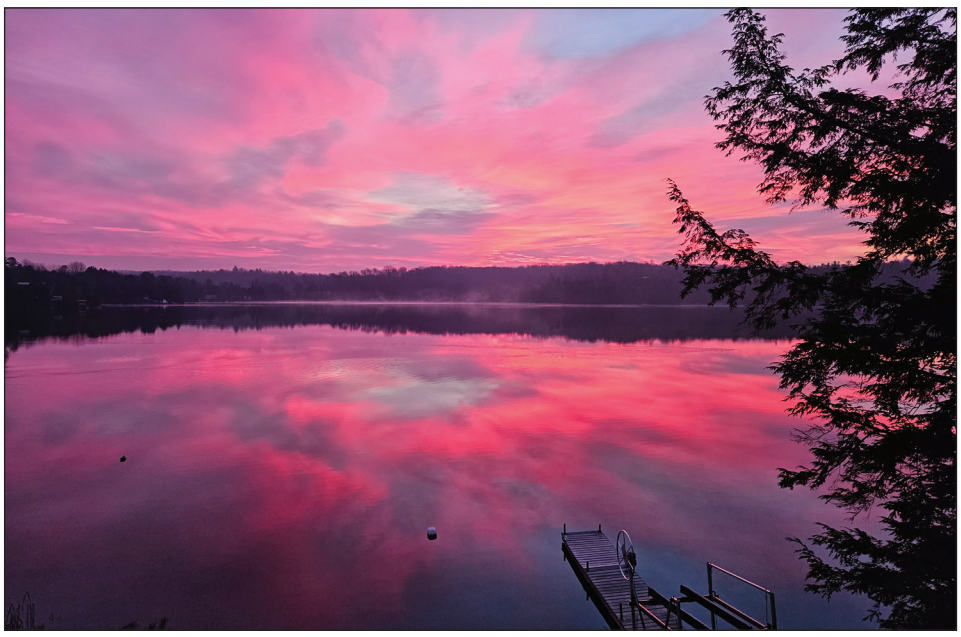
Apparently there was a hotly contested practice of new leaders starting their rule by declaring a Debt Jubilee, wiping the financial slate clean for all its citizens. This was considered a smart political move because it meant that men were not swept into bondage and remained available to serve their country. Hudson draws a parallel with debt forgiveness for post world war Germany, which allowed that country to rejuvenate, in contrast with the USA not forgiving mortgage debt in the 2008 economic debacle, so that millions became homeless, where they likely had great difficulty contributing to the economic or social life of the country.

Predictably, debt jubilees were not universally popular: the Pharisees (who I think were the bad guys when Jesus went on his rampage in the synagogue) in particular defended their right to make money by lending money. Hudson says that is the dominant creed of the moment, and it certainly looks that way from where I sit. The corporations whose DNA requires that they optimize returns, regardless of the cost to society, seem to march to a different drummer than us mere mortals. We are expected to shoulder the consequences of our decisions; they're 'too big to fail' and qualify for rescue with public money. They rabidly gobble up their competition and leave us at the mercy of monopolies, which are immune to corrective action. Because if they fail, we will lose access to the service or goods they control, which may well be necessities of life.

Which gets us to the cost of housing, the primary reason why Canada leads the G7 in household debt. Seventy-five per cent of household debt is related to housing. The cost of housing has doubled since 2011 for no good reason but that it can: they have it, we need it, they set the price, we pay the price. We've drunk the Kool-aid that home ownership is the best, perhaps even the only way, to increase wealth. This is true only if housing continues to increase in value and we have drunk that Kool-aid as well – we are led to believe it is inevitable that our houses will increase in value, and we buy it, even though we also know that real estate is cyclical, that what goes up must come down. Denial is resilient.

So I've made Canadian homeowners to be the biggest sinners of all time. Those who squeaked into buying before the door clanged shut (which it still hasn't, although the threat perseveres) and who are living on their credit cards because they needed to renegotiate the mortgage, and borrowing rates did go up, as was said to be inevitable: sinners, the lot of them! Is it time for a Debt Jubilee? I have trouble with that idea, even though I don't think that being house-poor makes for good citizens.

What I do want for Christmas is that someone go on a rampage and destroy the lenders' businesses, drive them out of community space, expose and disgrace them. I think Pharisees are the sinners.



## Pretty in pink

**The leaves may be gone but the colours are still in full effect around the county, as seen in this picture captured in the early morning hours by Mary Lou Dunn of East Moore Lake in Minden. /Submitted**


Black Friday starts with RED THURSDAY
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1 DAY ONLY
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Spend $300.00 on Thursday, Nov 23rd and get a $50.00 bonus CT money on almost anything in the store or online.

Tineco Ultra Lightweight Cordless Vacuum
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# Adding the sparkle to the season with Abbey Gardens

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

It's back and better than ever. Abbey Gardens' (AG) annual Night Market is slated for Saturday, Dec. 2, and this year, they're adding even more to the packed event. "Our community does a great job of having events, especially during the holidays, for kids and families, and we didn't want to create something that wasn't needed," said director of operations for AG, Ashley McAllister. "The Night Market idea tends to be more for adults, where people can come for date nights or with friends or to do some holiday shopping without the kids, and enjoy a cocktail."

McAllister shared that the idea for the Night Market hit during COVID, when she realized that community members who regularly visited the big Christmas markets in the city were no longer comfortable making the trip.

So in 2021, McAllister and her team at AG realized they could bring that experience to Haliburton County. "We already have a lot of great relationships with local vendors because of the Food Hub, so we decided to try and bring a little of the holiday magic home," said McAllister. "The response was incredible, and we had hundreds of people attend our first market - way more than we ever imagined."

That first trial year, they had over 500 attendees, and last year they had well over 750. "So I think it's steadily growing," chuckled McAllister.

This year, the AG team has added another new feature: the Holiday Spirits Bar, which is set up in the recently renovated bar trailer onsite, and will feature a series of winter cocktails made specially for the event.

McAllister noted that the first couple hours of the evening tend to be very busy, with the crowds dying down as the night progresses. All vendors will be set up in the marquee tent, which will be heated, but it is still recommended to dress for the conditions, since the majority of experiences will be held outdoors.

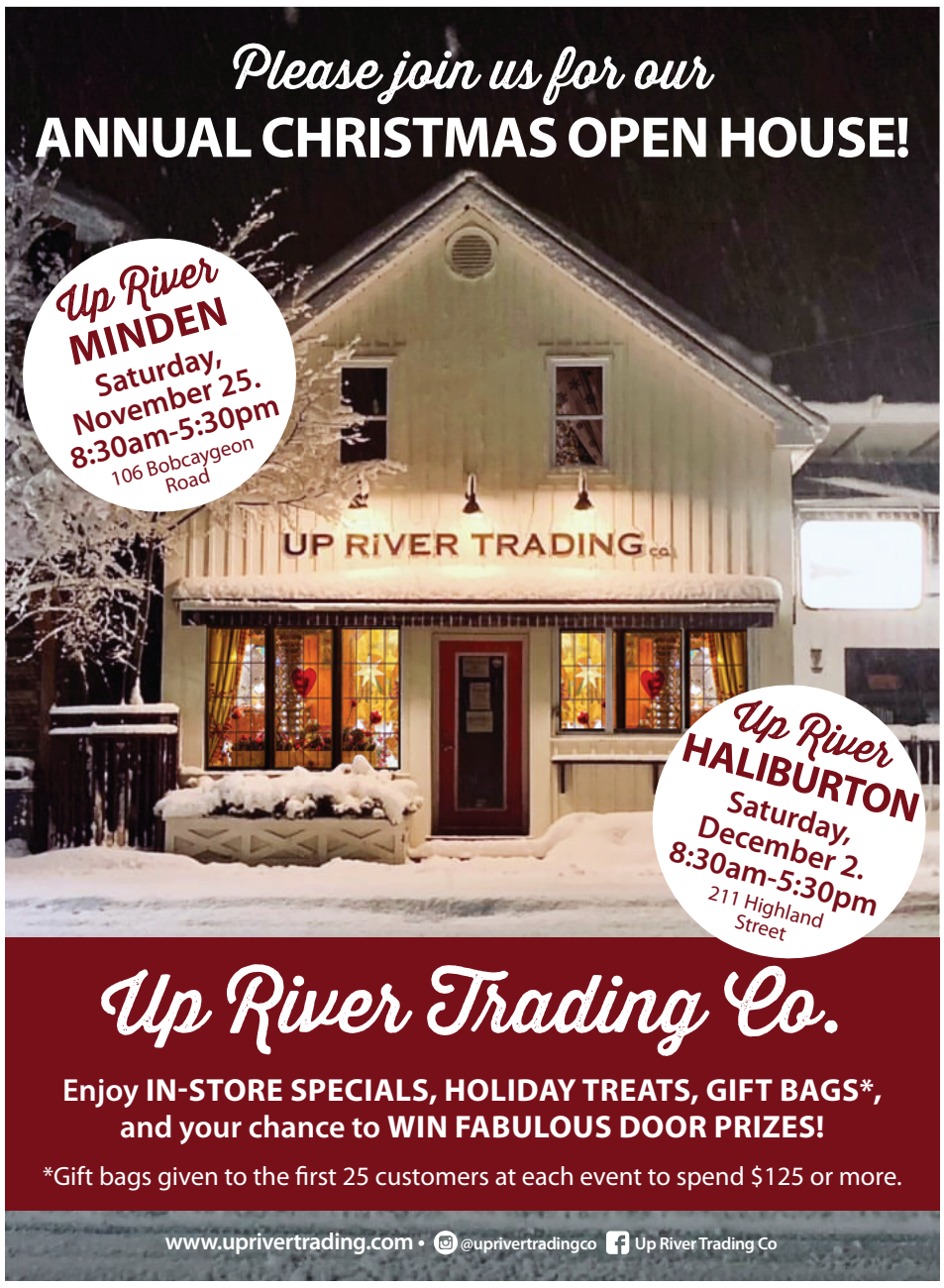
On top of the new outdoor bar, AG will be offering festive hot drinks from the Food Hub, as well as a farm fresh tree stand, fire pits, and food tent with mac and cheese, roasted potato poutine, and wood fired pizza from Into The Blue. There will also be a photo booth set up with a souvenir print out, and some other fun surprises along the way.

And the best part? Donations from the evening all go right back into Haliburton County. "Not everyone knows that Abbey Gardens is a registered charity, so all the proceeds go right back toward creating more community events, restoration projects, and children's programs," said McAllister. "This year's fundraiser is raising money for our toddler program Lil' Buds, where parents and tots explore the natural world through themed stories, walks, activities, hands-on discovery, and crafts in the garden."

McAllister noted that they want to make the event accessible to everyone, so admission is entirely by donation, though she would appreciate it if folks can RSVP in advance, so they can prepare the appropriate amount of food and beverages.

For more information and to register, visit www.abbeygardens.ca.

The annual Night Market is returning to Abbey Gardens on Dec. 2, 2023. This year, they have added a custom bar for holiday cocktails to pair with the caroling, shopping, and scenery. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff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# Thirty-five years of Wednesday night ball

by **BRITNEY PAGLIUCA**
*Times Staff*

Each Wednesday at 7 p.m., individuals from all over the county gather in Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) gym for a night of pick-up basketball. Members of all ages lace up their shoes to participate in an evening of getting active, socializing and some friendly competition.

The drop-in program began in 1988, originally run by Dan LaPierre, the assistant coach of the HHSS boy's basketball team and former teacher at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

LaPierre said the program started as a night for teachers to play basketball together, but he had the idea of opening it up to the rest of the community. "Since then, the program has migrated from adults who were eager to play to mostly youth in the community," LaPierre said. Though he and other folks who have helped keep the program running over the years still attend regularly.

"It's a great opportunity for youth to learn from more experienced players and improve their skills," LaPierre said. "We come to play, but we're also there to coach."

He added that it's also important to show youth that participating in sports doesn't have to stop after school. "It's something they can do for the rest of their lives," LaPierre said.

After LaPierre retired, the drop-in program was run by Paul Longo, former head coach of the senior boy's basketball team at HHSS. However, in 2021 the torch was passed on to someone new – a 26-year-old Hunter Smith, alumnus of the high school and their basketball team.

Smith has been volunteering with the program for over five years and attending since he was in Grade 9. When Longo decided to pass along his responsibilities to someone new, Smith was a natural choice, and he's in it for the long-haul. "Hopefully I can keep running the program for the next 20 years," Smith said.

The Wednesday night basketball crew plays a game in the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School gym. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

Smith noted that programs like this are extremely important in a small town like Haliburton. "A lot of kids here don't have access to extra curriculars or organized sports," he said, "So this is a great way for kids and adults to interact, have fun and stay fit."

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment is clearly something Smith is passionate about too. As participants entered the gym, Smith greeted each by name, and throughout the evening gave words of encouragement and game advice.

In addition to taking on the responsibility of organizing Wednesday night basketball, Smith also became the head coach of the senior boy's basketball team at HHSS last year.

"Coaching has always been something I've been interested in doing," Smith said. "Basketball has been a lifelong passion of mine and I've loved the new learning experiences that have come with being a coach."

He commented on how important school-organized sports are, noting that it is a great way to make friends, get involved and stay active. "It was my favourite part about going to school," Smith said.

Hunter Smith is now the organizer of the longstanding tradition.

He has high hopes for this year's senior boy's basketball team, with a goal of winning Kawarthas and maybe COSSA too.

Smith is an exceptional example of the influence that youth involvement can have in the county, and how important it is for young people to continue traditions and programs that promote community wellness.

"I remember when I was in school, I had such an appreciation for the people who were coaching and running programs like this for me. It is such a passion for me now that I don't mind taking my time to give kids the same opportunities I was given," Smith said, "It's my way of giving back to Haliburton."

*Community events sponsored by*
**Lisa Mercer**
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

Broker
*Don't keep me or your event a secret!*
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cell: 705.457.0364
Follow me on Facebook!
*Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale*

**Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com**

When: Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon
Where: Minden United Church basement, 21 Newcastle Street
Our weekly contract bridge has resumed. All levels of skill welcomed.

**Seniors Chair Exercises**
When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

**Cribbage and Euchre**
When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. With funding from the Government of Ontario. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.

**Christmas Luncheon**
When: Nov. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church 7 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden
Please join us for a lunch of soup, sandwiches, desserts and coffee/tea (by donation). Draws-Santa Squares and Door Prize. All are welcome.

**Christmas Art Show and Sale**
When: Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Fellowship Room, Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.
Tour de Forest Studio Tour & Friends present a Christmas Art Show and Sale featuring 10 local artists. Proceeds from the sale of special items donated by the artists will go to the 4Cs Food Bank. Food Bank representatives will be there to greet you and are full of information about the role of the 4Cs in our community. All donations gratefully received. Contact louiseanneewing@gmail.com or 705-457-5831.

**Heat Bank Haliburton Online Silent Auction**
When: Nov. 9 - 26
Where: Online- see details below
Heat Bank Haliburton County and Rhubarb are partnering once again for their annual fundraiser. Through enormous community support, Heat Bank has over 75 amazing products, services and experiences available for auction! Details can be found on Heat Bank Haliburton County and Central Food Networks social media pages or you can go to https://app.galabid.com/heatbank23/items.

**Minden Legion Branch 636**
**Lunch - Monday to Friday**
**Monday:** Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
**Tuesday:** Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
**Thursday:** Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
**Every other Friday:** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
***Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541***

**Minden**
**Community Food Centre Holiday Hampers**
**Call-in applications begin November 27 - Dec. 1 and December 4 - 8, from 10 am to 2 pm.**
**CALL 705-286-6400**
***Hamper pick up is Wednesday, December 20***
**PICK UP times - 1 pm - 3 pm**
**By Appointment Only**
*Applicants must bring their ID and ID for all registered for their hamper*

**MCFC is closed Monday, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1**
**Open Wednesday, Dec. 27 & Jan. 3**
**Pick up of hampers is the "DRIVE BY" format.**

# Black Sheep Books - A small business helping small businesses

by BRITNEY PAGLIUCA
*Times Staff*

Black Sheep Books is a bookkeeping business that was founded by Faye Mortell of Minden in Oct. 2022. Faye, a graduate of the Small Business Accounting Program at Fleming College, is also in the midst of training her partner Ryan Mortell to better meet the needs of their clients and support their growing business.

Bookkeepers are responsible for managing business' financial accounts so that they have accurate records to file taxes, HST, and payroll remittances, as well as reviewing the fiscal health of the business.

Many people - both small businesses and individuals - may be anxious about filing their taxes because they don't know how or are afraid of owing money to the government. As a result, Faye has found that many people avoid doing so and have years of filing to catch up on. "Don't worry if this is you," she said. "You are not alone."

Faye explained that most people actually get money back after filing their taxes, especially those whose income is from employment.

In addition, filing your taxes allows you to receive other tax credits and benefits. "This includes Old Age Pension, the Canada Child Benefit, the Climate Action Incentive Credit, and so many more," she said.

Faye Mortell of Minden has recently started Black Sheep Books, to help locals with their financial questions and concerns. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

Many people are unaware of the tax benefits and credits that they are eligible for, and therefore lose out on potential to save even more. Having someone who is knowledgeable about the process of tax benefits not only reduces the stress of taxes, but also provides an opportunity to both learn and save.

For example, Haliburton County residents are eligible for a tax credit in the occurrence that they must travel over 80 kms for a medical appointment. It incudes a credit towards travel expenses, meals and accommodations after 80 kilometres.

Ryan noted importantly that the interest rate on taxes owed is going up again as of Jan. 1, 2024, to a whopping 10 per cent. Getting your taxes in on time is more pressing then ever, and Black Sheep Books wants to help you save and minimize your worry.

Faye laughed when she explained that she's always looking for ways to charge her clients the least amount of money. "I want small business owners to be as successful and independent as possible," she said, "So we are especially invested in educating small business owners about ways to reduce their tax burden themselves." This includes writing off some meal expenses, car expenses, home office expenses and more.

Supporting small businesses in Haliburton County is one of Black Sheep Books' main priorities. "There are so many people here with exceptional skills and the potential to start a successful business," Ryan said, "but some may be intimidated or unaware of how to manage the financial aspects of being a small business owner."

In addition to supporting small businesses, Black Sheep Books also helps individuals organize and file their taxes. They are seeking new clients with the goal of providing exceptional service, and improving the financial heath of Haliburton County residents.

Faye has prepared a list of documents her clients should gather in order to determine which credits they might be eligible for, and to ease the process as much as possible. If you would like a copy or seek more information, reach out to Faye at faye@blacksheepbooks.net.

*Sudoku brought to you by*

## SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Answers on page 16*

## Hometown pride

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School claimed third place during their COSSA Volleyball Tournament. Pictured, the team huddles together to prepare for their game against the Quinte Christian Eagles/ TIM YANO special to the *Times*

Despite losing against the Quinte Christian Eagles 3-1, the boys came in third overall in COSSA after a well played season.

Players and coaches on the bench celebrate a goal by Isaac Larmand on Nov. 18, making the score against the Rangers 5-1.

**In it to win it**

The Huskies celebrate a win against the North York Rangers on Nov. 18 in Minden, with a score of 5-1. /TIM YANO special to the *Times*

# Council allows Huskies to install goal review cameras

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Minden's SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena will have a bird's eye view of inside-the-crease action during Haliburton County Huskies hockey games.

Candace McGuigan, the township's parks, recreation, and facilities manager, said during council's regular meeting on Nov. 9 that the bench boss of the local Ontario Junior Hockey League contingent would like to install goal review cameras in the rafters at the arena.

In a letter to municipal staff, Ryan Ramsay, the town's head coach and general manager, said the goal review cameras will be installed in the rafters above each net.

Footage from the cameras will be accessible by two tablets during Huskies games, one on the Haliburton Huskies bench and the second tablet in the timekeepers' box for referees to review.

The league mandates any team playing within the OJHL have video goal review cameras installed from the rafters at both goal nets above the playing ice surface.

Tablets will be password locked and locked in the Huskies' general manager's office after games. The cameras will be shut off after games.

McGuigan said the team will cover the cost of the cameras and take care of their installation.

Further, she said, the township will be named as additionally insured in contractors' $5-million insurance policy.

As the goal review system will not be used for public surveillance, the Township of Minden Hills Video Surveillance policy will not come into effect.

"But the township would need to have the right to review the camera and the footage at any time to confirm that the cameras are being shut off and they're only being used to the intended purpose of goal review during game time," McGuigan said.

She said the team's contractors will have to work around any scheduled events at the arena to install the cameras.

"So there's isn't any concerns from the Community Services Department team (about) installation," she said.

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Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.

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Ridgewood Ford Sales

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Hudson Henderson Insurance Broker Haliburton/Minden,
CIBC Minden, Ommmh, Minden Post Office, TD Bank Minden
Emmerson Lumber Ltd - Maple Ave.
Kohara & Co - Industrial Park Rd.
Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC

Drop off for the 4C's in Haliburton is Dec 8th and other location Dec 15th

HCHBA Keystone Sponsors

# Fifteen years of Midwifery Services in Haliburton County

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
*Times Staff*

For the past 15 years, Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft (MSHB) have been providing services to families from their building on Victoria Street in Haliburton.

They'll soon have a new home in the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team building on County Road 1.

"Our goal now is to be really integrative with the community," said registered midwife Annalee Winter. "We love our cozy little home, but this will be a familiar place to lots of people and it's a central and accessible location."

MSHB was founded in 2008 by Rebecca Weeks "in response to the lack of obstetrical services in our area," Weeks said in a statement on the MSHB website.

Winter graduated from the midwifery undergraduate program at McMaster University in 2014, something she took in search for a job with plenty of variety and a way to help people through one of the most significant events of their lives.

Winter and her family moved to Haliburton County in 2016, and knew how important these services are to a small community.

"I was drawn to the diversity in the work and the potential to really get to know families and help people as they're entering parenthood," she said. "It's such a special time to be able to provide information to people 24/7 whenever they need it. Even if we don't have the answer, we can help them get it, and that's really important in a rural area."

She explained that being present while someone experiences bringing life into the world is nearly indescribable.

The Midwifery Services of Haliburton - Bancroft have been filling a gap in the community for over a decade by offering prenatal, birth services, and postpartum care to individuals in the community. /Courtesy of MSHB

"The most rewarding part for me is watching people after birth, after they realize they've birthed this beautiful baby into the world. Seeing their faces is truly the best," Winter said. "The memories stay with you from birth. It's different for everybody of course, but even my grandmothers remember their births so clearly."

## Rural challenges

Midwives in Ontario are autonomous primary care providers for pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

A midwife cares for individuals throughout their entire pregnancy and birth, as well as six week postpartum if a pregnancy is considered low-risk.

"Throughout someone's pregnancy, we're always reviewing things, looking at the whole picture, and if something comes up that's looking to be outside the range of "normal", then we consult with a specialist like an OB to be able to provide them the safest care possible for the pregnant person and their baby," Winter said.

Most prenatal care is done at their clinic.

They perform home births or assist with hospital births depending on the client.

"In Haliburton County, one of the most challenging things is that we don't have a hospital that does deliveries close to us. It's an hour and a half to the Peterborough Regional Hospital, and then there are others that do deliveries that are about the same distance," Winter said.

MSHB midwives have staff privileges at the Peterborough Regional Hospital, so this is usually where their hospital births will take place.

## A day in the life

For Winter, no two days are the same.

"Some days, you find me just in the clinic having appointments with clients. They could be at any stage in their pregnancy, so what happens in a day really depends on who I'm seeing," she explained.

Midwives carry out home visits for the first week of postpartum, and then have appointments for the remaining six weeks after.

She always remains on call.

"If someone is in labour or needs an urgent assessment, we sometimes have to rearrange our clinic so I can attend," Winter said. "Your phone is your pager, and you're always waiting to see what's going to happen."

On the days that she's not in the clinic, she will perform home visits, work on paperwork, and organize meetings.

"It's hard in some ways for sure, in terms of committing to your own kids and family to organize plans, but it is never ever boring. It's exciting and stimulating and different all the time."

In Ontario, the four year midwifery undergraduate program can be taken at Toronto Metropolitan University or McMaster.

MSHB is currently looking for more midwives to join the team.

"The problem is that there are so many postings in Ontario and not enough people," she said.

Regularly a team of four, the clinic is now down to two midwives and an administrator with one midwife on maternity leave and one having left the county.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

**New Waste Disposal Site Hours starting January 1, 2024**

**Hours of operation at the Township's Waste Disposal Sites will be changing as of January 1, 2024. New Operating Hours are as follows:**

**New Winter Hours (October 1 to April 30)**

| Site | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Holiday Monday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scotch Line | 8:30 – 4:30 | 8:30 – 4:30 | 8:30 – 4:30 | Closed | 8:30 – 4:30 | 8:30 – 4:30 | 8:30 – 4:30 | 8:30 – 4:30 |
| Ingoldsby | 11-4 | Closed | Closed | 11-4 | Closed | Closed | 11-4 | 11-4 |
| Iron Mine | 10-4 | Closed | Closed | Closed | 10-4 | Closed | Closed | 10-4 |
| Little Gull | 10-4 | Closed | Closed | 10-4 | Closed | Closed | Closed | 10-4 |

**All sites are closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.**

**New Summer Hours (May 1 to September 30)**

| Site | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Holiday Monday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scotch Line | 8-7 | 9-6 | 9-6 | Closed | 9-6 | 9-6 | 9-6 | 8-7 |
| Ingoldsby | 11-6 | 11-6 | Closed | 11-6 | Closed | 11-6 | 11-6 | 11-6 |
| Iron Mine | 10-6 | Closed | 1-5 | Closed | 9-5 | 1-5 | Closed | 10-6 |
| Little Gull | 10-6 | Closed | Closed | 9-5 | Closed | Closed | 1-5 | 10-6 |

GET IT online
www.mindentimes.ca

## Where are They Now

# *Decluttering life, one step at a time*

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Editor*

**Adeilah Dahlke grew up in Haliburton County, and credits her roots in the community with her ability to connect and learn in her business, Jigsaw Organizing, based out of Peterborough. /Photo submitted**

Life can be chaotic. This isn't new information for any of us. We've all got work, meetings, dance classes, hockey games, school, and any other sort of lifestyle choices that keep us busy.

Often, the area that gets missed as a result of the busyness, is the home. Stuff piles up, clutter starts to build, dust begins to settle.

That's why Haliburton Couny local Adeilah Dahlke started Jigsaw Organizing Solutions in 2015. "My passion has always been about my clients and their well-being," she said. "I am not going into their homes to tell them to get rid of all their stuff, but instead I want to help them figure out their priorities and properly store their precious items."

Dahlke grew up in the Haliburton Highlands, living here until she went off to the University of Waterloo, where she earned her honours degree in english. She shared that at the time of graduation, she started to wonder what her next steps would be.

She wasn't interested in working in an office or being a teacher, but she knew she was always captivated by people's stories around her. "I find it so fascinating how people live, and what importance and memories they have associated with things around the house," she said. "I love hearing their stories, connecting with them on such an intimate level, and helping them take control of their space again."

With this interest in mind, Dahlke stumbled upon the website of a professional organizer, and settled into some online courses on the topic. Within a few months, she had started her own business.

Now based out of Peterborough, Dahlke assists clients with decluttering and organizing, downsizing, virtual organizing, photo and document digitization, and preparing for a move. "It's so easy to consume now," she said, "I think that there have always been people that have struggled with organization, but now that our society has become more and more consumerist, it is just more debilitating."

She shared that in this day and age, accessing items to purchase is right at our fingertips, and often, these items are made cheaply, prompting individuals to purchase things in multiple, before losing interest or moving on. "Part of what I do when I'm working with my clients is to help them think about their future purchases, so they can make better decisions and not run into the same problem again and again," she said.

Dahlke reflected back on her childhood in Haliburton County, and how her upbringing contributed to her interest in helping others get organized. "Growing up, I was always organized," she told the *Times*. "I colour-coded my school agenda, kept on top of my homework, and when I would go to a friend's house to play I would end up cleaning and organizing their room."

Dahlke credits growing up in the small community as her reason for her empathy and interest in connecting with others. "My clients have often described me as being very down-to-earth and empathetic, and I think a lot of that has to do with how and where I was raised," she said. "In Haliburton, there is such a huge culture of helping people out, and being friendly to your neighbour."

While Dahlke has a large client base in Peterborough, and her services continue to grow, she knows that she will always call Haliburton her home. One of the initiatives she is passionate about is the Art and Craft Festival, presented by the Rails End Gallery, where she spent her summers working growing up. "I've made so many connections with local volunteers, artists and business owners," she said. "To this day, I keep coming back to be involved in the Art and Craft Festival so that I can keep up those connections and experience the magic."

For more information on the services Dahlke provides, visit www.jigsaworgsolutions.com.

*Did someone you know graduate from Hal High and are doing great things in the world now? We'd love to share their story! Email emily@haliburtonpress.com to be featured in an upcoming Where are they now? column.*


Auditions for
Highlands Little Theatre's
Spring 2024 Show!

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**A Murder is Announced**
*Directed by Jack Brezina*

**Thursday, November 30th at 7pm and**
**Sunday, December 3rd at 2pm**

*Haliburton Highlands Museum*

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

**NOTICE**
**SPECIAL MEETING – NEW DATE**

**2024 BUDGET PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Special Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. has been cancelled and rescheduled to **Thursday November 30, 2023, at 9:00 AM**.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss projects and priorities for the 2024 Budget.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands. Members of the Public may also observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal/

Dated this 17th day of November, 2023.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

# Calling all artists...

Visual artists, musicians and writers of all disciplines are encouraged to apply to Halls Island Artist Residency for summer 2024. The online applications close on February 15, 2024, and is open to local, national and international artists.

The central Ontario residency, located on an off-grid island on Koshlong Lake, has inspired artists from as far away as upstate New York, British Columbia, and Newfoundland, as well as local Haliburton County artists. Since 2019, painters, sculptors, novelists, poets, actors and musicians discovered inspiration as they engaged with nature and pursued their creative endeavours in this beautiful setting.

Summer of 2023 brought 15 residency artists over 9 ten- to twelve-day sessions. Management Committee Co-chair, Ruth Walker, noted the benefits the program brings to Haliburton County. "We were thrilled with the creative energy each artist brought to the residency and what they all accomplished here. Even better, they left with the Highlands in their hearts, sharing their success at Halls Island with their own arts community."

Halls Island is privately owned by a family whose generosity is providing the residency, accommodations and island access for the chosen artists. The residency is a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, a not-for-profit organization that encourages, develops and supports several community groups in the Highlands.

There is no accommodation cost to resident artists other than food and personal supplies. Transportation to and from the island is provided by the Halls Island group. Those applying should be comfortable staying alone or with one other compatible artist in this rustic setting.

Applicants will find all pertinent information on the application process on the Halls Island Artist Residency website at www.hallsisland.ca.

*Submitted*

# Aging Together as Community, holiday social and lunch

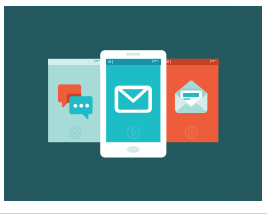
Saturday Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Haliburton United Church. 'Stay Upright and Be Active.'

Presenters: Taoist Tai Chi and its benefits; Sit to Fit Bodies, Georgia Shank, Activity: A Part of You; BEHealth, Emily Clarke, Reg. Kinesiologist- Neuroplasticity/Movement as Medicine and Minds in Motion, Alzheimer's Society, Jennifer Stubbert and Melissa Foster, a social, recreation program that incorporates physical and mental stimulation, for those with memory loss and their care partners.

RSVP agingtogetherhc@gmail.com or call 705-457-6579 by Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Helpful Tips for Seniors, an ATAC booklet, willl also be launched on Dec. 2.

*Submitted*



*Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?*

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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| 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
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Minden Times

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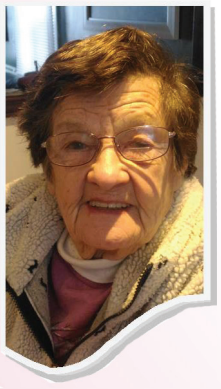

The Children and family of

**MARY STIVER**

of Halls Lake

Invite family and friends to join us

**90th Birthday**

Saturday November 25th
1pm–4pm
Stanhope Community Centre

Best Wishes Only
Please join with family and friends to celebrate Mary's 90 years of a very adventurous life
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**Wishing a happy Sweet 75th to Val Carr on November 23rd**

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## 650 OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

### Helen Evelyn Louise Dentinger (nee Lawrence)

*Helen passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Wednesday November 15th, 2023 at the age of 86.*

Beloved wife of Ben Dentinger for 65 years. Loving mother of Deborah (Floyd), Terrance (Pearl), Lawrence (Sue) and Steven (Lori). Loving grandmother to Nicole, Kerri, Brianne, Kurt, Erin, Brody, Sarah and Kate. Loving great grandmother to Alexis, Madison, Zoey, Beau, Bella and Isla.

Throughout Helen's many moves with her husband Ben she made an indelible mark in the communities she touched. During her years she gave back as President of the Blind River Curling Club, was an active member of the Lakefield Catholic Women's League (CWL), was founding President of the Lakefield Lioness Club, was President of the Lakefield Curling Club and was an active member of the Port Hope Hospital Auxiliary. Helen's deep belief in country and support of our troops was highlighted by her many years of passionate service with The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636 - Minden.

Her passion for community involvement created many strong and lifelong friendships that have endured the test of time. Her boundless energy was evident in all she endeavoured from being a proficient quilter, excelling in crafts, cooking and gardening. Most of all, her passionate love of family will always be remembered by the Lawrence and Dentinger families forever.

Friends are invited to a Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Helen's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, November 25th, 2023 from 12:00 o'clock noon until 2:00 pm. *Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Helen chose her final resting place to be at Bethel Church Minden.

Memorial Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 636 Poppy Fund would be appreciated by the family.

*www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com*

Minden Times

# Classifieds

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## 650 OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

### Pamela Adelle Morin (nee Howe)

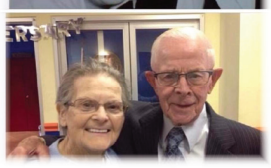
*Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 with her loving family by her side.*

Beloved wife of the late Paul Morin (June 13, 2023). Loving mother of Marc (Lindsay Grice) and Andrew (Colleen). Loving mamere to Madison, Colton, Miller and Alabama. Dear sister of Diane and Tom Dawson, aunt to Ryan and Kate (Andrew) and great aunt to Kinsley and Berkley. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

A Celebration of Pamela's Life will be held at the Wintergreen, 3325 Gelert Rd., Minden, Ontario on a date and time to be announced.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or Diabetes Canada or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

*www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com*



*In Loving Memory of*

### Mary Catherine Strange

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform family and friends of the death of Mary Catherine Strange born Oct. 4, 1930 in Toronto, Ontario.

Mary peacefully passed at Sunnybrook Hospital on Nov. 12, 2023. Mary was predeceased by her loving husband, John James Strange (May 14, 2020) and her sons, David (Nov. 5, 1999) and Colin (Nov. 6, 2023), her parents Mary MacFarlane (Edgar "Ed") and George McIntosh (Mildred "Midge") and her brothers, Lester (Betty), John (Ruth) and Norman (Velma). Mary will be dearly missed by her son Don (Jackie) and grandchildren, Caitlyn and Blaire Strange and Jonathan Reid and one great-grandchild, Silas.

She was the treasured Aunt of many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the physicians, nurses and staff of Sunnybrook Hospital Palliative Care K1C wing for their excellent care since July. We further would like to thank Canterbury Place Retirement Residence for their assistance and care while John and Mary resided there. Funeral arrangements will be held at a date to be advised in the spring of 2024.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The Times

Monday, November 20, 2000 Number 1967

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**THE MAKE-OVER CONTINUES:** The digging, chopping and hacking continues along Highway 35 in Minden. Dramatic changes have taken place north of the Legion Hall where engineers are preparing to install a Bailey bridge to allow for the reconstruction and widening of the present structure. The work is part of project in which the highway will be redeveloped from Highway 121 south to Horseshoe Lake Road One.

# Ross Rigney prepares for a new era in Minden Hills

by Matthew Sitler

If Minden Hills was a store, then January first 2001 could very well be nine o'clock in the morning. Yes, that's an open for business sign you see in the window, and that's a new proprietor opening the door. The newly-elected Reeve of Minden Hills Ross Rigney sat down with *The Times* in these pre-buisness hours to reflect upon his campaign and the direction he would like to lead council come that opening day.

Sitting in his living room which looks out onto Canning Lake, Snowdon's current Reeve is the picture of affable determination. He doesn't mince words when addressing political viewpoints near and dear to his heart, nor does he bite at more than he can politically chew. Experienced with and keenly aware of the issues at hand, Rigney feels he is ready to take on whatever responsibilities the top job has to throw at him. "Municipal politics is probably the purest form of democracy," he comments. "I dislike politicians pointing their fingers at Toronto. Here we can't. We're responsible for an awful lot - they may have generic guidelines to guide you, but you're the one making decisions at the local level."

That said, Rigney announces the recent campaign that swept him to power ran rather smoothly. After a bout with prostate cancer earlier this year which threatened to sideline his aspirations, he waited to hear he was in the clear health-wise, then mounted a successful campaign without any looking back.

"I thought 'I'm known in Snowdon, I'm somewhat known in Minden because of the Chamber of Commerce and as the acting CAO of the County, but people still don't know who I am,'" he said. So he stepped into the ring and put his signs out early.

Keeping his campaign straightforward and direct, Rigney said he tried to cut through the verbal diahorea so often utilized by politicians when explaining their platforms. "In a community like this, words of that nature don't mean a lot -- that's big company talk, so I'm very careful about what I say."

With an extensive business background himself, the approach remained unique. The new mail-in vote option promised a higher seasonal vote - something Rigney knew would be a determining factor in the election. He wrote to many seasonal residents and genuinely listened to their concerns. "I hear the complaints all the time -- and I live on a lake -- that they don't have any impact," he stated. "Well you can have the impact this year buddy."

### The future

Come the new year, Ross Rigney promises the public an open government that hides nothing. "I'm very much an open person," he says. "That way no one has to answer for things after because everyone knows what that answer is."

Making sure a good working relationship with township employees is maintained tops his list as well. "I want to bring them along in a stronger effort of customer service - they represent my township and the people they have to deal with are their employers," he said. This will be reflected in better service on the phone and at the counter he hopes. "That emphasis has to be 'We are there for the average taxpayer who walks through that door."

Through a lot of door knocking,

*(more on page 3)*

*Mail-in voting*

# It worked

The mail-in ballot seems to have achieved its main purpose: encouraging more people to participate in the municipal election process.

All jurisdictions throughout the coverage area report an increase in voter participation, in some cases a substantial increase.

In Anson, Hindon and Minden, which will become part of the new municipality of Minden Hills, voter participation jumped to 45.7%. This compares with 18.4% in the 1997 election and 31% in 1994. (the low turn-out in 1997 could be attributed to the fact that there was no race for reeve that year and no issue to capture the interest of the electorate.)

The participation rate was just as high in the other wards of the new municipality of Minden Hills. In Lutterworth 44% of the voters participated, while 41.8% of the voters in the Snowdon Ward cast ballots. This compares with 1997 turn-out of 8.3% for Lutterworth in 1997 (both the reeve and deputy reeve were acclaimed), while in Snowdon, the turnout for the last election was 17%.

The total number of voters in Minden Hills was 5244: 2982 voted in AHM ward; 1428 in Lutterworth Ward and 834 in Snowdon Ward.

Clerk treasurer Tammy McKelvey said, "The mail-in ballot worked. It offered more opportunity for people to vote."

The clerk noted that the mail-in process was very labour-intensive. McKelvey said that the most of the municipal staff time in the two weeks before November 13 was spent handling the ballots. Envelopes had to be opened, declarations confirmed, the voters list checked and ballots sorted into ward boxes. To ensure the integrity of the processes, much of the handling of the ballots involved two or more staff.

Other clerks in the county also reported higher than expected staff involvement. Sherborne/Stanhope clerk Gerald Bain said the election will cost more than anticipated because of the staff time involved. However, he noted that the vote-by-mail procedure appears to have accomplished what it was intended to do...greater participation.

In the northern municipality 39.12% of the voters took part in the election, compared with 30% in 1997. 3207 voters out of a possible 8196 cast ballots.

"With 80% of our voters being seasonal residents, this is a fair way of allowing everyone to participate in the vote," he said. "I was very pleased with the service from Canada Post," Bain said.

*(more on page 4)*

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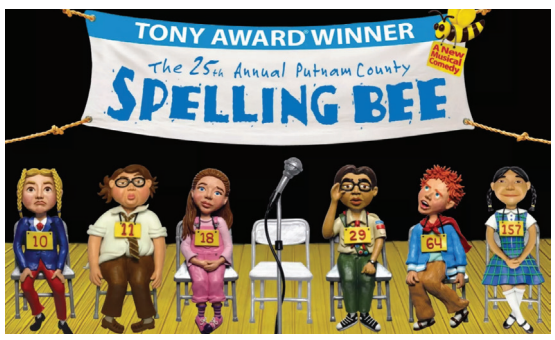
### July 2nd to July 11th



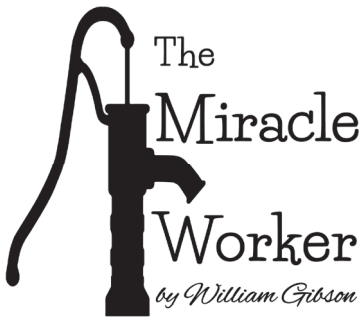

Sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything in this delightful musical An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** is a delightful hive of comedic and musical genius.

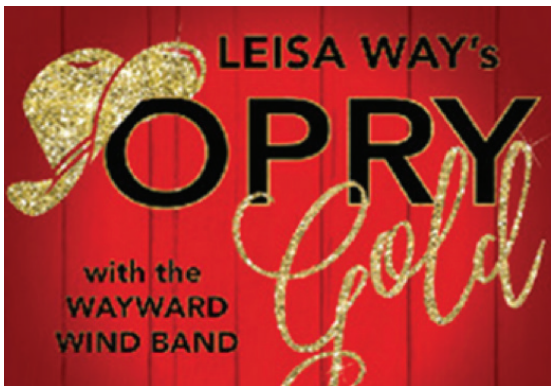
Opens July 2 through to July 11 for nine performances, including two matinees.

### July 15th to July 23rd




This Tony Award-winning play is the story of Annie Sullivan and her student, Helen Keller, who lost her sight and hearing at the age of 19 months. With compassion, humour and dramatic tension, ***The Miracle Worker*** explores the volatile relationship between a lonely teacher and her headstrong charge.

### August 4th to August 8th




Back by popular demand, Highland Summer Festival presents Leisa Way ands her Wayward Wind Band with another outstanding concert, ***Opry Gold***. To share the Grand Ol' Opry's history is to share the story of Country Music.

Leisa Way and her phenomenally talented band have brought audiences many great shows, and this latest concert raises the roof with the hottest country songs from the last few decades. Sing-a-long to Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, Vince Gill, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Lady Antebellum, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Zac Brown Band, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Glen Campbell, Taylor Swift, Darius Rucker, Kenny Chesney, Gretchen Wilson, George Strait, Roger Miller, Flatt & Scruggs, Ricky Scaggs, Hank Snow, Roy Acuff, Alan Jackson, and more!

Five performances starting August 4 to August 8.

### July 24th to July 26th

Highlands Summer Festival is delighted to present ***The Good Lovelies***, a Canadian folk/country harmony trio, consisting of Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore. At their core they can be described as a country/folk trio, with tinges of pop, roots, jazz and sometimes hip-hop mixed in.

The group's three members, Brooks from Whitby, Ough from Port Hope and Passmore from Cobourg, were all performing as solo artists in the Toronto area when they came together in 2006 to perform at a Christmas concert at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The three subsequently decided to continue working together, releasing their debut EP, Oh My, in 2007. Since then, they have released nine LPs including the latest We Will Never Be The Same in 2023. In 2018, they performed at Massey Hall in Toronto and were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award. The trio is on stage for three performances, July 24, 25 and a matinee 26.

### July 28th to August 2nd

Sarah, a turkey farmer, has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail, a beekeeper. Add in Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, ***The Birds and the Bees*** is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys.

Six performances from July 28 to August 2.
*(**The Birds & The Bees** contains mature content and discussions of sex.)*

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